

# A PROPHET OF TAXATION

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**"In the years to come we shall be bending our backs to a taxation such as, in this country which has been singularly free of taxation, we have never known before, and so also will our children for generations to come."**

**—Sir Edmund Walker, President of the Bank of Commerce and Chief Financial Adviser to the Borden Government.**

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Sir Edmund Walker, who was one of those who fathered the famous Toronto manifesto calling for the defeat of the Laurier Government in 1911, and who has since been recognized as probably the principal financial adviser of the Borden Government, has been giving some fresh advice to Canadians in an address delivered at Toronto. He reminded his hearers that it was the duty of every man, woman and child to do his little part in adding, by extraordinary industry, to the natural store of wealth. Nothing, he counselled, should be bought or built that is not absolutely necessary.

**“For,” he is quoted as saying, “in the years to come we shall be bending our backs to a taxation such as, in this country, which has been singularly free of taxation, we have never known before, and so also will our children for generations to come.”**

And so this is the reward of the Canadian people for turning their backs upon the Laurier tradition of prosperity and plenty, during which the great banks set the example of building, at a vast expense, monuments of architectural perfection wherever, in the whole Dominion, they set up a branch of their business of caring for and administering the savings of a prosperous people.

No more work for the building trades of Canada. Taxation such as has never been known for the people of Canada for generations. It is, after all, something that at the end of these generations there will still be the banking palaces to remind Canadians of the golden age of Laurier rule, which Sir Edmund and his powerful friends did so much to bring to an end.

And now, when Sir Edmund Walker is talking in this sense in Toronto, the ministry for whose existence he is partly responsible



turns a deaf ear to recommendations proceeding from Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his associates to stop spending money on all manner of public works which could very well wait or be dispensed with altogether. At a time when Sir Edmund Walker urges extraordinary industry and economy, his protege, Hon. Mr. White, comes down with a vaster budget than has been, asks leave to make larger expenditures on non-productive public works than the Liberals ventured to undertake in the days of most flowing revenues, and fails altogether to suggest that such money as the country has to spend should be applied to measures that will aid the people in increasing the production of the badly needed wealth.

Provision is made for taxes aplenty, but of devices for helping the people to meet the new burdens not an idea. Building an expensive post office or customs house where there is a good enough post office or customs house already will not enable the people to pay taxes. It will only add to them.

This country depends for the support of all its various forms of industry and commerce upon the annual wealth producing capacity of its agriculture. If we have really been forced backward until we have to face new standards of penury, as Sir Edmund Walker seems to think, then what Canada needs is not an over indulgence in expenditure designed to influence elections in this riding or that, but a positive policy looking to the encouragement of every form of agricultural endeavour which holds within it the prospect of adding to the sum of wealth annually derived from the resources of nature with which Canada is so magnificently endowed.

But of expenditure on productive enterprises this government has not shown that it has a single idea. Its mind is on all public works—and taxes.



HOW TORIES GET THE EXTRAVAGANT EXPENDITURE TAXES

